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GOVT ISSUES ADVISORY TO SOCIAL MEDIA FIRMS ABOUT DEEPFAKES

The govt issued an advisory to social media firms to comply with IT rules as concerns rise about misinformation via deepfakes tied to AI

PLATFORMS TO SPECIFY PROHIBITED CONTENT

The advisory issued on Tuesday mandates that digital and social media platforms communicate to all users clearly as to what content is prohibited under IT Rules. Digital intermediaries like X, Facebook and WhatsApp must ensure users are regularly informed about the penal provisions as well. Violation of the directive will attract legal consequences

TO BE MADE PART OF TERMS OF SERVICE

- The bar on content must be part of the platform's terms of service. Also, it must be said upfront during first-registration; at every instance of login; and while sharing information on the platform
- Deepfakes refer to doctored media that is digitally manipulated to impersonate someone, using a form of artificial intelligence

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TYPES OF CONTENTS ARE PROHIBITED ON DIGITAL INTERMEDIARIES BY LAW

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Will smoke out ship attackers, claims Rajnath

Want to ensure that nobody dares to come anywhere closer to Indian coast: Navy Chief

Rajnath Singh

Security provider

India is a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. "Along with our friendly countries, we will keep the sea lanes secure," Rajnath said

Modi, MbS hold talks

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman amid concern over West Asia. "We agreed to work together for peace, security and stability," Modi said

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that the perpetrators of the recent suspected drone attack on Merchant Vessel (MV) Chem Pluto in the Arabian Sea and on MV Sai Baba in the Red Sea would soon be brought to justice.

"India's growing economic and strategic power has filled some forces with jealousy and hatred... We will find those who executed the recent attacks even from the depths of the seas and take strict action against them," he dramatically said while speaking at the commissioning ceremony of indigenous stealth destroyer INS Imphal.

In his address, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said four destroyers have been deployed to counter piracy and drone attacks on merchant shipping. Besides, P8I surveillance aircraft, Dorniers, Sea Guardians, helicopters and Coast Guard ships have all been deployed jointly to counter these threats.

While the Liberia-flagged merchant vessel M/V Chem Pluto carrying 21 Indians and one Vietnamese crew came under a drone attack off the coast of Gujarat, M/V Saibaba, was hit by a one-way drone attack in the southern Red Sea on Saturday. The attack on Chem Pluto happened off the Gujarat coast on international waters. The site of the suspected drone strike is outside India's Exclusive Economic Zone.

"We don't want these attacks to come any closer. The closest attack that has happened is about 220 miles from our coast, but we want to ensure that nobody dares to come anywhere closer," Admiral Kumar said.

A naval team of explosive ordnance disposal specialists that inspected Chem Pluto, saw a strong possibility of a drone attack. The explosive charge on the drone detonated completely causing extensive damage above the waterline.

The Navy said it has commenced focused maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea in the wake of the attack.

NOW, WRESTLER VINESH RETURNS KHEL RATNA AND ARJUNA AWARDS

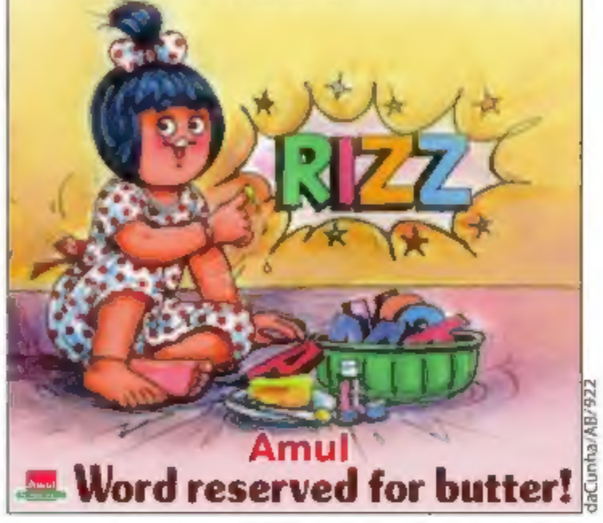
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A COUPLE of days after the sports ministry abstained the newly-elected Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) from functioning, multiple World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat on Tuesday decided to return her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards.

In an open letter written to Prime Minister and posted on X, formerly Twitter, Vinesh, who spearheaded the protest against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, asserted that she is returning the awards so that they do not become a burden on her from leading her life with dignity. The move surprised many as only three days after the WFI election the ministry not only restrained Brij Bhushan's loyalist Sanjay Singh-led panel from taking over but also instructed the Indian Olympic Association to form an ad-hoc panel to run the sport.

Vinesh was conferred with the Khel Ratna, the highest sports honour in the country, in 2020 while she received the Arjuna Award in 2016. Her decision came days after Sakshi Malik quit wrestling and Bajrang Punia returned his Padma Shri Award.

In her letter, Vinesh wrote, "I remember in 2016 when Sakshi won the Olympic medal your government had made her the brand ambassador of 'Beti bachao beti padhao' campaign. Women players were happy and congratulated each other. But when Sakshi was forced to quit the sport, I cannot help but remember the year 2016 repeatedly. Do women players exist only for the publication of government's ads? I also dreamt of winning an Olympic medal but that dream is now fading."



Flutter over minor explosion near Israeli embassy

Delhi Police and forensics teams at the blast site near the Israel embassy in Delhi. No one was injured but an abusive letter was found at the site | PARVEEN NEGI

PAST INCIDENTS

In January 2021, a low-intensity blast occurred near the Israel embassy, damaging a few cars. It left a crater on the road. In February 2012, a bomb was planted under an Israeli embassy car in which a diplomat's wife was injured

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

AN emergency call regarding an explosion near the Embassy of Israel here on Tuesday evening sent the security agencies into a tizzy.

After hours of search operations to find traces of the explosive, sources claimed they did not find anything suspicious except for a typed letter that was addressed to the Israeli ambassador.

While officials declined comment on the contents of the letter, reports suggested its language was abusive.

A security guard who witnessed the incident claimed he heard a loud sound and saw smoke coming up from the top of a tree. "This happened around 5 pm. I was on my duty and heard a loud sound. When I came out, I saw smoke coming from the top of a tree, that's all I saw...Police have taken my statement...," the security guard told reporters.

As per the eyewitness, the explosion took place on a vacant land in front of Central training Hindi Institute and behind the Israeli embassy.

A Delhi Fire Service official, while speaking to this newspaper, said they received a call regarding a blast near the Israel mission around 5.45 pm.

As the incident took place at a very high security zone that houses embassies of multiple countries, several teams of Delhi Police and Bomb Disposal Squad were quick to reach the spot. The anti-terror unit of the Delhi Police — Special Cell — was also deployed.

Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israel embassy, Ohad Nakash Kaynar, put out a video message saying an explosion had occurred in close proximity to the embassy. "All workers are safe, all diplomats are safe, our security teams are working in full cooperation with local Delhi security," he said.

7-day home isolation for Covid patients

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

The Karnataka Health Department has brought back the home isolation rule for those who test positive for Covid-19. The State recorded two deaths and 74 positive cases on Tuesday.

A seven-day home isolation is a must for positive patients and they will be monitored by health officials. Also, parents have been advised not to send their children suffering from cold or cough to schools. Precautionary vaccines will be administered to senior citizens and those with comorbidities. These were among the major decisions taken at the first meeting of the cabinet subcommittee on Covid-19.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar, top health officials and members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) attended the meeting after detection of 34 cases of the new Covid-19 variant, JN.1 in the State.

"Health officials will visit the homes of Covid-19 patients. They will test the patients and also their family members if they are symptomatic," said Gundu Rao. Government and private employees in home isolation should be given mandatory casual leave. Those being treated in hospitals should be given special leave, he added.

Children suffering from cold, cough and fever should stay at home. If required, they should get tested, he said. He said that a sewage surveillance in cities such as Bengaluru and Mangaluru will be taken up.

CONTINUED ON: P3

EXPRESS READ

Registration for Yuva Nidhi begins

Bengaluru: The state government on Tuesday launched registration for the 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme which provides financial aid to unemployed graduates and diploma holders. It is the fifth guarantee announced by Congress | P4

Central, Union can be interchanged: Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi HC in a recent order dismissed a PIL filed by an 84-year-old man, seeking to replace the term 'Central government' with 'Union' or 'Union government' in all orders, notifications and correspondences | P9

No rain, K'taka may face drinking water crisis by Feb-end

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA, which is reeling under drought, is likely to face a drinking water crisis during summer. The situation may worsen in towns and cities with most of the reservoirs receiving poor inflows.

Expressing concern over the impending crisis, experts have advised people to use water judiciously.

With summer fast approaching, the government has decided to use water from its reservoirs for drinking and industrial purposes. Because of this, farmers, who are already in distress due to the failure of monsoon, may not get much water for irrigation.

According to KSNDMC, major reservoirs, which can hold up to 895 tmcft of water, now have only 394 tmcft. The reservoirs had 668 tmcft of water during the same period last year. While the gross capacity of reservoirs in the Cauvery basin is 114 tmcft, as on date they have just 52 tmcft. They had 83 tmcft of water during the same period last year.

Sources in the Revenue Department, under which the disaster management wing functions, said the State may not receive heavy showers in the coming months to fill its reservoirs.

"As such, the water level in the reservoirs has come down. Though the government is insisting that its priority is to ease the drinking water crisis during summer, the State may face a shortage by February end or early March," the sources said.

The crisis will also affect the places which depend on groundwater for drinking and irrigation purposes. According to officials from the disaster management wing, due to shortage, farmers have overexploited the groundwater source by drilling borewells. "At many places, the borewells have also become dry," they added.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge had stated that officials have been directed to utilise the services of private water tanker operators in the affected areas.

GS Srinivas Reddy, former director of KSNDMC and now serving as scientific officer, said there are "chances" of the State facing drinking water issues. Farmers had been asked earlier not to cultivate crops that need more water. He urged people to avoid wasting water and plug leaks.

The MUV which caught fire killing T Anil Kumar (inset) in Anchepalya on Bengaluru-Tumakuru road, on Tuesday | EXPRESS

Hybrid vehicle goes up in flames, realtor charred

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 48-year-old realtor was charred beyond recognition after the Multi Utility Vehicle (MUV) he was driving caught fire near Jindal in Anchepalya on the Bengaluru-Tumakuru road on Tuesday afternoon. Since the vehicle caught engulfed in flames in seconds, the victim could not come out. It is said that he tried to open the door but the vehicle's central locking system was jammed. Employees of a nearby petrol bunk made a futile attempt to douse the fire with fire extinguishers. MN Halli police identified the victim as T Anil Kumar, a resident of Shettihalli in Jalahalli West, based on the vehicle's registration number.

CONTINUED ON: P3

Kolar man arrested for killing married minor daughter for chatting with lover

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

NANGLI police on Tuesday cracked a case of honour killing where a man had murdered his minor daughter at Musturu village in Mulbagal taluk of Kolar district on May 21.

The accused had murdered his daughter for keeping in touch with her lover although she was married to another man. Kolar SP M Narayan said after committing the crime, Ravi, 54, of Musturu village lodged a complaint with Nangli police on May 22 stating that his daughter, who returned home from her in-laws' house, had gone missing. The police, who registered the complaint, could not achieve any breakthrough. Ten days ago, the police received an anonymous letter from some villagers, who suspected Ravi's role in his daughter's disappearance.

Police collect evidence from the farm of murder accused at Musturu on Tuesday

After keeping a close watch on Ravi, the police took him into their custody on Tuesday. Ravi revealed that his 17-year-old daughter, who was studying I PU, was in love with his cousin brother Kalyan Kumar. He objected to this and got his daughter married to Subramani, a resident of Jodi Krishnarajapuram in Vemgal police limits. Even after her marriage, Ravi's daughter was in touch with Kumar over the phone. Enraged by this, Subramani summoned Ravi to his house. Ravi, who went to his son-in-law's house, brought his daughter back to Musturu. Later, Ravi took her to his farm on the outskirts of the village and beat her to death with a wooden log and burnt her body there.

A police team visited Ravi's farm and conducted a spot mahazar. They collected some charred remains and sent them to the FSL for tests. Ravi confessed that he killed his daughter as she brought disgrace to his family by continuing her affair with Kumar. Along with murder charge, a case of child marriage will be filed against Ravi and others, the SP said.

ED: Vadra stayed in UK property tied to crime

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said businessman Robert Vadra renovated and stayed at a London property, which is a "proceeds of crime" in a money laundering case against fugitive arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari.

The ED made this allegation in a statement on the filing a Supplementary Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet) on December 21 against Cheruvathur Chakutty Thampi (CC Thampi), a UAE-based NRI and Sumit Chadha, a UK national, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 before a special PMLA court here. The court took cognisance of it on December 22. The ED probe revealed that Bhandari held various undisclosed foreign assets, including properties at No. 12 Bryanston Square, London and 6, Grosvenor Hill Court, London. These assets are proceeds of crime as per the provisions of PMLA, 2002. Thampi and Chadha are involved in the concealment and use of these proceeds of crime, the statement noted.

The ED claimed that Thampi is a close associate of Vadra, adding Vadra not only renovated the aforesaid property at 12, Bryanston Square, London through Chadha but also stayed in the same. "Further, Robert Vadra as well as CC Thampi purchased huge chunk of land at Faridabad and had financial transactions with each other. Further investigation is under progress." Vadra, husband of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, was questioned by the ED in 2019 in this case.